

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-11 currently remain in the application. Claims 12-17 have been withdrawn and none of the claims is herein amended.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Kerkar in view of Ohta, further in view of Berke and still further in view of Kloetzer.

To summarize, the present invention relates to and claims a multi-functional admixture for concrete characterized as comprising specified Components A, B and C each at a specified weight ratio such that their total will be 100 weight %. Component A is selected from graft copolymers and their salts of specified kinds; Component B is said Component B is (poly)alkyleneglycol monoalkyl ether of a specified kind; and Component C is organic phosphate of a specified kind.

Kerkar was cited by the Examiner for disclosing alkenyl ether/maleic copolymer represented by the formula shown in column 3 at lines 15-31 but this is nothing other than the copolymer obtainable in the "first process" as defined in claim 1 of the instant application. In other words, what is described in Kerkar is no more than an intermediate substance that is obtained during the process of obtaining aforementioned Component A of the present invention.

Ohta was cited by the Examiner for disclosing a graft copolymer shown by general formulas S, A and B in columns 5 and 6. What are shown in these formulas, however, are partial esters of a part (corresponding to maleic acid) of copolymer having maleic acid or its salt as its copolymer component and such graft copolymers do not contain any of the kind of monomers shown by Formula (1) of the present application.

Berke was cited by the Examiner for disclosing alkylene glycols of certain kinds but the alkylene glycol described in column 1 at lines 11-18 and the polypropylene glycol described in column 6 at lines 60-61 are the kinds having hydroxyl groups at both ends and are different from (poly)alkylene glycol monoalkylether of Component B of the present application with one end closed the alkyl group having 3-5 carbon atoms.

Kloetzer was cited by the Examiner for disclosing certain kinds of acidic phosphoric acid ester. As indicated by the Examiner, Kloetzer's disclosure partially covers the kinds of organic phosphate of which "Component C" of the present application is comprised.

As explained above, the present invention requires the presence of all three of specifically defined Components A, B and C. Although a portion of Component C is

admittedly mentioned by Kloetzer, none of the cited references describes or even hints at the other two components (Components A and B), much less the proportions in which they should be contained. The Examiner stated that a person skilled in the art will find the use of Component A obviously after reading Kerkar and Ohta. The Examiner may be right, but the use of Component alone as a multi-functional admixture for concrete does not constitute the present invention, as explained above. The present invention requires the used of Components A, B and C in specified ratios, and it has been amply demonstrated that desired effects can be obtained only if these components are mixed at the required ratios.

For example, Comparison Examples 1-5 in Table 3 are examples wherein use is made of samples (r-1)-(r-5) which are similar to but are not Component A and desired effects are not obtained. By comparison, it is shown that desired effects are obtained if use is made of corresponding examples (R-1)-(R-5).

In summary, it should be noted that the cited references, even if read in combination, would not teach even a person skilled in the art to make use of any of the multi-functional admixtures for concrete as specifically described in the rejected claims of the instant application. It is therefore believed that the cited references cannot predicated the Examiner's rejection and the application should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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